

means for controlling the printing means according to the operation condition so that the printing means can print an image according to the image data;

wherein data reading from the removable storage medium is enabled and data writing to the medium is disabled when the medium is connected to the printer.

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32. (New) The printer according to claim 31, wherein the removable storage medium is a memory card.

33. (New) The printer according to claim 31, wherein compressed image data is stored in the removable storage medium and the printer further comprises means for expanding the compressed image data read out from the removable storage medium.

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34. (New) The printer according to claim 31, further comprising means for erasing the image data and output control data stored in the removable storage medium, after printing the image data.

35. (New) A printer comprising:
means for printing an image according to image data;
means for retrieving output control data and image data from a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the means for retrieving;
means for setting an operation condition of the printing means according to the output control data;
means for controlling the printing means according to the operation condition so that the printing means can print an image according to the image data;
a sorter for sorting printed paper; and
means for controlling the sorter according to output control data stored in the removable storage medium.

36. (New) The printer according to claim 35, further comprising means for storing information of functions of the printing means and sorter into the removable storage medium so that the information can be used by an external equipment for generating output control data.

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37. (New) A printer comprising:

- means for printing an image according to image data;
- means for retrieving output control data and image data from a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the means for retrieving;
- means for setting an operation condition of the printing means according to the output control data;
- means for controlling the printing means according to the operation condition so that the printing means can print an image according to the image data;
- a finisher for stapling printed paper; and
- means for controlling the finisher according to output control data stored in the removable storage medium.

38. (New) The printer according to claim 37, further comprising means for storing information of functions of the printing means and finisher into the removable storage medium so that the information can be used by an external equipment for generating output control data.

39. (New) A method for performing operations on a printer, comprising the steps of:

- retrieving output control data and image data stored in a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the printer;
- setting a printing condition according to the output control data; and
- printing an image on a print medium based on the image data according to the printing condition;

wherein data reading from the removable storage medium is enabled and data writing to the medium is disabled when the medium is connected to the printer.

5.5 E.8 40. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising a step of storing the image data in the removable storage medium.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising a step of erasing the image data stored in the removable storage medium, after printing the image data.

B' 42. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising steps of:
storing image data as compressed image data in the removable storage medium; and
reading out the image data from the removable storage medium by expanding the compressed image data.

9.3 43. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising a step of erasing output control data stored in the removable storage medium, after printing the image data.

0052220" 55042960 44. (New) A method for performing operations on a printer, comprising the steps of:
retrieving output control data and image data from a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the printer;
setting a printing condition according to the output control data;
printing an image on a print medium based on the image data according to the printing condition; and
sorting the print medium with a sorter according to the output control data.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising a step of storing information of functions of the printer and the sorter into the removable storage medium so that the information can be used by external equipment for generating output control data.

46. (New) A method for performing operations on a printer, comprising the steps of:
retrieving output control data and image data from a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the printer;